

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02258 302104Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /060 W
-----311742Z 065304 /47

R 301705Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2258

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PN
SUBJECT: PAREDES' SABRE-RATTLING TO STUDENTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN A SPEECH TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SANTIAGO (VERAGUAS) MARCH 25, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LT. COL. ROBEN PAREDES SAID THAT IF THE 1964 RIOTS SHOULD RECUR, THE NATIONAL GUARD SHOULD "FALL FIRST."

2. PAREDES CONTINUED: "YOU AND WE (THE GN) WILL JOINTLY HAVE TO FACE THIS SITUATION, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED A DEADLOCK, AND TO END THIS TRAVELING BACK AND FORTH IN WHICH THEY HAVE US ENTANGLED, THIS WAR OF SEMANTICS, THIS SLOW WASTE AND FINALLY TO HAVE THEIR NEGOTIATORS COME WITH A FREE HAND TO NEGOTIATE AND ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION ONCE AND FOR ALL."

3. HIS STATEMENT WAS CARRIED IN "STAR AND HERALD", "ESTRELLA" AND "MATUTINO" MARCH 26. (TEXT FBIS/PANAMA PA 261525Y.)

4. "CRITICA" EDITORIAL ABOUT OPENING OF SCHOOL YEAR MARCH 28 CONCLUDED BY QUOTING PAREDES AND OBSERVING THAT HIS REMARKS SHOW THIS SCHOOL YEAR HAS "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE" FOR "THE CHILDREN
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WHO TODAY GO HAPPILY AND HURRIEDLY BACK TO THE CLASSROOMS."
(FBIS/PANAMA PA 281733Y.) END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: PAREDES' BLAST AT ALLEGED US FOOT-DRAGGING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS REFLECTS A WIDELY-HELD OFFICIAL PERCEPTION HERE (SEPTTEL). BUT WE DO NOT INTERPRET HIS SPEECH AS INDICATING A GOP POLICY SHIFT TOWARD CONFRONTATION.

THIS TYPE OF SPEECH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY GN OFFICERS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. IT IS OF COURSE A FAVORITE LINE OF TORRIJOS, THOUGH WE HAVEN'T HEARD HIM SAY IT RECENTLY--PERHAPS BECAUSE THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN IN RECESS. IN ANY EVENT, ITS MESSAGE IS PARTLY CAUTIONARY: THE STUDENTS MUST NOT HEAD FOR THE CANAL ZONE BEFORE THE GN IS READY TO LEAD THEM THERE.

6. THE ARTICLE WAS BYLINED ADAN CASTILLO, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS REACHING THE EMBASSY OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD, CASTILLO IS ONE OF THE RELATIVELY FEW GOP OFFICIALS WHO CAN FAIRLY BE CALLED A COMMUNIST-- HE IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE PDP, PANAMA'S COMMUNIST PARTY. A JOURNALIST WITH AN IDEOLOGICAL AX TO GRIND HAS, IN OUR VIEW, TAKEN A BOILERPLATE SPEECH AND PLAYED IT AS IF IT WERE SOMETHING NEW--WHICH IT IS NOT. END CONFIDENTIAL.
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977037/aaaaafix.tel
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PN, PQ, (PAREDES, ROBEN)
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